The Alleppey Port.

106. ✱ **MR. P. S. MUHAMED** : Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have been considering any scheme for improving the Alleppey Port ?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN : Proposals for improving the facilities at the Port of Alleppey are now engaging the attention of Government.

Roads near the Stone bridge at Quilon.

107. ✱**MR. P. S. MUHAMED** : Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have taken any action to improve the roads on the bank of the big canal on the southern side of the Stone bridge, Quilon?

MR. I. C. CHACKO. Yes. The work has been taken in hand and is in progress.

Travancore Navika Thozhilali Sanghom.

108. ✱**MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR** : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the Travancore Navika Thozhilali Sanghom submitted a memorial to them in 1114 requiring them to acquire the Puthen thodu and the road adjacent to it (at Quilon) ;

(*b*) whether they have replied that the request will be conceded ; and

(*c*) what action was taken thereon to put it into effect ?

MR. I. C. CHACKO : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes, if possible.

(*c*) The necessary estimate for the work has been prepared but has not been carried out as the Municipality refused to contribute.

Appointment of clearing agents in Customs Houses.

109. ✱**MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR** : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they have brought into force certain rules for the appointment of clearing agents in the various Customs Houses of the State ;

(*b*) for what purpose and for whose benefit they were put into force ; and

(*c*) whether any association has or associations have complained to them regarding the establishment of such clearing agents ?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN : (*a*) Yes. As per Government Notification R. O. C. No. 4352/39/Devpt., dated the 9th July 1941.

(*b*) To facilitate the course of trade and to secure accurate statistical information from customs documents.

(*c*) Yes.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : With reference to the answer to part (*c*), may I know whether the Merchant Association, Quilon, has protested ?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN : Sir, they protested ; but after their nominee has been appointed they have no further protest or complaint.

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MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: May I know whether the Travancore Tozhilali Navika Sanghom have objected to it?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: They have not objected but they wanted to select themselves their candidates, and deposit security and things of that kind.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: May I know, Sir, in what stage that protest is at present?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: Sir, if the honourable member means by protest, the points raised by the Navika Thozhilali Sanghom, a reply has been given.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: May I know what the nature of the reply is?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: The nature of the reply is that in view of certain rules, the security could not be deposited by the Sanghom, but only by the agent because it has to be available for damages that may have to be realised from him for any carelessness or negligence on his part.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: May I know whether Government have consented to appoint their own agents?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: Yes, Sir.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: What is the difficulty in allowing them to have the deposit money in their own names?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: The Chief Controlling Officer is to select the men. If he approves of that, it will be done.

Kozhencherry Bridge.

110. *MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have created a separate Sub-Division in connection with the construction of the Kozhencherry Bridge;

(*b*) whether they have appointed a special Sub-Division Officer in connection with the construction of the Kozhencherry Bridge; and

(*c*) whether they have considered the desirability of putting this Officer in charge of the construction of the Kollakadavu, Kovilthodu and Nalkalikal bridges also?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The question of putting this Officer in charge of the Nalkalikal and Kovilthodu bridges, is under consideration.

Employees in the State Transport Department.

111. *MR. G. VELU PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the posts of Clerks, Inspectors, conductors and drivers in the Transport Department are pensionable at present; and

(*b*) if not, whether Government have considered the question of making them so?

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